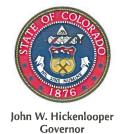
## STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Denver, Colorado 80203 Phone (303) 866-2471 Fax (303) 866-2003

## GOVERNOR'S REQUEST SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DECLARATION



July 9, 2013

Alfred E. Judd, Center Director United States Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Assistance Field Operations Center West 6501 Sylvan Road Sacramento, CA 95610

Dear Mr. Judd:

Wildfires in southwest Colorado are having a lasting negative impact on the regional economy. The West Fork Fire Complex, beginning June 5, 2013, and consisting of three lightning-caused wildfires, West Fork, Windy Pass, and Papoose, continues to burn in Hinsdale and Mineral Counties. This wildfire complex has thus far burned nearly 110,000 acres and remains only 20 percent contained. The fires struck right at the beginning of peak tourism season and the threat of the wildfire resulted in the closure of two national forests, the destruction of recreational habitat that drew numerous tourists, long-term closures of area highways, mandatory evacuations of nearby residents, and severe business disruption due to lengthy closures and reduced tourism. At the Disaster Assistance Centers in the impacted counties, numerous businesses came in search of support due to their fire related losses and completed Economic Injury Worksheets. I certify that at least five small business concerns suffered substantial economic injury resulting from this event, and these businesses are in need of financial assistance not otherwise available on reasonable terms.

Under the provisions of the Small Business Administration (SBA) 13 C.F.R. § 123, I request that SBA issue a disaster declaration for the purpose of providing Economic Injury Disaster Loans for businesses in the Counties of Hinsdale, Mineral, and Rio Grande, and the contiguous counties of Archuleta, Alamosa, Conejos, Gunnison, La Plata, Ouray, Saguache and San Juan.

Should you have any further questions, or require any further information, please contact Kevin Klein, Director, Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely.

John W. Hickenlooper

Governor